

WARRIOR LEADER

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Operation Warrior Forge

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GETTING TO YOUR OBJECTIVE: ALIVE!

INSIDE:

Tactical Movement Saves Lives

Plotting the Way Ahead

Advice from Cadet: "Put your heart in it"

So You Want To Be An Officer?

A 1st Regiment cadet traverses a ravine in the wilds of Fort Lewis during Individual Tactical Training.

U.S. Army Photo by 2nd Lt. Melinda Walden



America's true walls live and breathe

By Col. Steven Corbett
Warrior Forge Commander

I recently traveled to U.S. Army Cadet Command Headquarters at Fort Monroe, Va., to participate in a change of command ceremony. Maj. Gen. Alan Thrasher handed the reins to our new leader, Maj. Gen. W. Montague Winfield.

A change of command represents the past, as well as the future. Most of the time our thoughts are fondly of the outgoing commander and wondering what the "New Guy" is going to be like. When a ceremony such as this is held in a venue as historic as Fort Monroe, the sense of the past can be overwhelming.



Fort Monroe is one of the oldest continuously occupied posts in our Army. Initially fortified by English colonists in the early 1600s, it has been continuously occupied since the 1820s. It is a place rich in history. A young second lieutenant named Robert E. Lee drew Fort Monroe as his first duty assignment. During the Civil War, it was nicknamed the "The Freedom Fort" because slaves fleeing from the Confederacy sought refuge there. Fortress Monroe's place in our Army's history is clear and secure.

But it was not the past that I pondered as I stood in front of my formation on a hot, humid Virginia day. Rather, I was thinking of the cadre, support troops – and especially the cadets – whom I had left behind at Fort Lewis.

My mind was not, however, idly wandering.

As I stood in that historic spot to take part in an important event in the life of Cadet Command, my thoughts were on the future. The future of our Army. The future of our Nation. The future of my own small children.

My thoughts turned to you whom I had left behind because you were all ensuring our future while I was standing at attention at Fort Monroe. By continuing your education as cadets during Warrior Forge, you are ensuring the future of our nation. You are the next "Freedom Fort" for America.

America's future safety is not built of granite, as is Fort Monroe. And, with all due respect to both my former and current bosses, it is not in the hands of Generals. America's future is built of the flesh and blood and minds and souls of all of you: the future leaders of America's Army, who are now attending Warrior Forge.

Through your commitment, your dedication and your sense of service to our nation, you are our walls. Your character is the bastion behind which Americans will take refuge. Thank you for volunteering to be the next link in the chain that defends America.

BEYOND THE FORGE

REAL-LIFE STORIES

of YOUNG ARMY LIEUTENANTS

First Lt. Rudy Placencia graduated from the University of Southern California in 2003. After his Officer Basic Course, he was stationed at Fort Hood where he served as a Transportation Corps Officer in the 115th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

His Army ROTC and Officer Basic Course education and training helped him soon after he touched down at Forward Operating Base Cuervo in eastern Baghdad.

While his Soldiers were full of the Warrior Spirit, Placencia instinctively knew they would need to be sharp and ready. He and his Platoon Sergeant worked diligently and hand-in-hand to achieve the level of proficiency that he knew would be essential to their survival.

Making use of the excellent training opportunities available to him at a range near his base, he conducted Convoy Live Fires to hone his Soldiers' skills. He especially concentrated on specific Force Protection missions for critical pieces of equipment and how to secure them.

One afternoon, his platoon was given the mission of providing Force Protection to an important heavy lift asset, moving it from the FOB to a location in downtown Baghdad.

Knowing that his platoon would enter an area that had seen previous enemy contact, he ensured his Soldiers were well briefed and communicated the importance of each and every Soldier's job on that day. The convoy received fire exactly where Placencia predicted it would be, and his Soldiers without hesitation launched into the Battle Drills they had trained on. His platoon not only completed the mission

with no damage to the critical equipment or injuries to his Soldiers, but the platoon was credited with two confirmed enemy kills.

Placencia directly applied the knowledge he gained from Army ROTC and his training at his Officer Basic Course to a combat situation with the result of "mission complete" and no friendly casualties.

By the end of his tour, Placencia had logged over 750,000 miles of convoy time on over 1,400 missions with only one wounded Soldier. He took all his Soldiers to war and brought all his Soldiers back.

First Lt. Anna Wittrock graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. She earned a minor in military science and commission through North Dakota State University in May 2002. She completed the Engineer Officer Basic Course in May of 2003. In December 2003 she volunteered to deploy with the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion, North Dakota Army National Guard, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While in Iraq, Wittrock served in a captain's position as the S1 Officer for the battalion. She also served as the voting officer, ensuring that her Soldiers' voices were heard back home at election time. Wittrock helped facilitate Operation Backpack Iraq, which saw more than 900 backpacks donated to children at various schools throughout Iraq. Her training was put to the test in Iraq. Although Wittrock's battalion of more than 460 Soldiers was spread out across Iraq at five different forward operating bases, she displayed an eagerness and dedication in helping them enter and leave the theater of operations.



Col. Steven R. Corbett

Commander

Western Region, U.S Army Cadet Command

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Classroom turns to combat for former APMS, students

By Spc. Kelly Collett
Utah National Guard Public Affairs

DRAPER, Utah – A former professor of military science is deploying to Iraq, taking with him resources he can trust – 12 lieutenants who spent time in his Reserve Officer Training Corps battalion.

Lt. Col. Richard Miller, currently the commander of 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Utah National Guard, is a former ROTC professor at Southern Utah University. He and 12 lieutenants who studied under him as cadets have begun their journey to Iraq.

Miller's former students, recently assigned to the 222nd FA, have formed with their commander a tight-knit group of Soldiers who know what to expect from each other, due to their time in training together.

Their university days now a distant memory, Miller's lieutenants are adjusting to the realities of preparing for combat.

"I'm pretty excited about it," said 2nd Lt. Warren Matlock. "It makes for a tighter cohesive unit because Lt. Col. Miller knows us. He knows our strengths and weaknesses. It helps to build a stronger leadership core to help lead the battalion."

First Lt. Phillip Ogden was equally generous in his praise of Miller as a mentor and commander.

"I don't think I would choose any other person as my commander for this deployment. It's been interesting to see his command philosophy and to see what he's taught us and actually see it be put into play," Ogden said.

"He's been giving us a great example here and leading the way for us. I can see that he is just



Lt. Col. Richard Miller, former professor of military science at Southern Utah University, will lead 12 of his former cadets – now all lieutenants in the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Utah National Guard – to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Front Row: 1st Lt. Collin Wallace, 2nd Lt. Brian Luth, 1st Lt. Warren Matlock, Lt. Col. Richard Miller, 2nd Lt. Clayton Anderson, 2nd Lt. Broc Tatum, 1st Lt. Phillip Ogden. Back Row: 2nd Lt. Mark Henrie, 1st Lt. Chris Smith, 1st Lt. Dustin Ray, 1st Lt. Travis Bringham, 2nd Lt. Tyler Young, 2nd Lt. Dustin Jensen.

continuing what he taught us in doing what he is doing now," he added.

One of Miller's more seasoned cadets, six-year National Guard veteran 1st Lt. Christopher Smith knows that his leader will hold his officers to a high standard.

"Lt. Col. Miller is a good guy and a really good commander. He's been challenging and he pushes you to do the best you can. You have to give him 110 percent," Smith said.

Miller reciprocates the respect given him by his lieutenants and is pleased with how much they have grown professionally.

"These 12 lieutenants we've got in the battalion have done really well. They did well as cadets too," Miller said. "They are able to take those skills and those things they learned and now apply them to the battalion. It's very comforting to know that what we did as (an ROTC) staff paid off."

Miller enlisted as a forward observer with the 222nd FA in 1981. After achieving the rank of specialist, he went to Officer Candidate School, received his commission and fulfilled multiple other positions in the battalion – from fire direction officer to battalion executive officer.

Miller later spent four years as an associate professor of military science at SUU, starting the program from scratch with a few other Soldiers.

Recognizing a need for getting additional officers commissioned for service in the Utah National Guard, Miller, along with Sgt. Maj. Joseph Spencer and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Fallon, went to the SUU administration to propose the launching of a new ROTC program with an all-National Guard cadre.

"The three of us went to SUU and met with the faculty and put together the charter with the Utah Guard and the partnership with the school," Miller said. "We were the first (all-National Guard) program to start in Utah. In fact, I think we were the first or second program in the nation to do this."

Miller had 32 cadets the first year, and since then the number of Soldiers in the program has remained between 35 and 45.

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Chaplains engage in ministry of presence at Warrior Forge

By Chaplain (Col.) John Johnston
Deputy Warrior Forge Chaplain

A critical learning point for cadets at Warrior Forge is for each to understand that a chaplain is a force multiplier – dealing with the morale and morals of Soldiers. While the commander is responsible for the morale and morals of the Soldiers, the wise commander uses his chaplain as advisor.

A chaplain has the best job in the military – helping people. He helps cadets and cadre exercise their faith by observing religious practices such as participating in public worship, whether at the chapel or in the field. Field services might last only 10 or 15 minutes, but the chaplain is involved in as many cadet activities as possible, providing a ministry of presence.

This allows the cadets to get to know the chaplain; often informal counseling occurs as a natural way of life out in the field instead of going to the chaplain's office. When the chaplain is out in the field, suffering with the troops, he earns

the respect and confidence of the cadets and cadre.

The chaplain is a spiritual leader. He helps the cadets and cadre develop a stronger relationship with God. He helps Soldiers grow in their faith. He meets the needs of Catholic, Protestant, LDS, Jewish, and Islamic Soldiers – and Soldiers of other faiths. (Did you know that Jewish and Islamic cadets are provided Kosher and Halal meals respectively upon request?)

The chaplain can guide Soldiers through a variety of decisions, whether regarding career choices and work-related stressors – especially when deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan looms, or decisions about one's personal life, such as marriage or other familial relationships. (Did you know that chaplains give deployment/re-deployment briefings and marriage enhancement training?)

Some Soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have a variety of mental health issues but do not want to disclose those issues with mental health personnel.

The chaplain is often considered "safe" because of confidentiality.

A chaplain, as a rule, has a masters of divinity – a degree that takes three to four years to attain. He also must have at least two years of ministerial experience after his bachelor's degree. So the youngest chaplain is at least in his mid-twenties. Catholic Priests are often in their mid-thirties before coming on active duty. They bring maturity with them. They

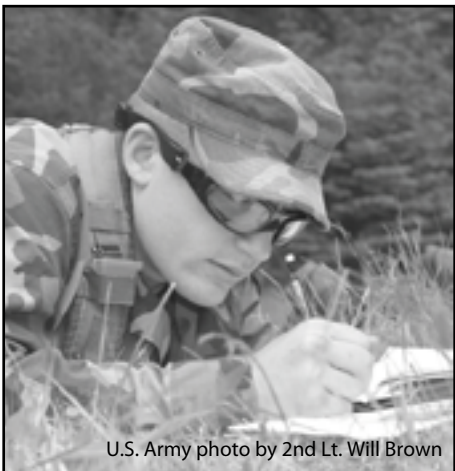
A chaplain enters the Army as a first lieutenant and is promoted to captain six months after coming on active duty. Although he wears a military rank, he is to be addressed simply as "chaplain." His rank is subsequent to his service to God and his fellow service members.

The chaplain's life, dedication to duty, ministry of presence, performance of sacraments, counseling, mentoring, marrying, burying, and myriad other tasks contribute to the morale and morals of the unit – to bring out the best in the Soldier and enhance the Army.



LOST?

**Land Navigation
and finding your way
without a GPS**



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Will Brown

By 2nd Lt. Stephen Stock
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

*You can't spell **lost** without **LT**.*

Hopefully these are not the words you hear when you get to your first unit. One of the many necessary skills possessed by a successful leader is to know where you are and where you are headed. This is one of the many challenges cadets face at Warrior Forge 2005 during Land Navigation.

"Land Navigation is important because if you can't read a map and know where you are, you can run the risk of shooting your buddies or being cut off from your unit," said 2nd Lt. Nicholas Rothwell from the Land Navigation committee.

Land Navigation consists of two days and one night out in the field. Cadets receive class instruction on how to hold a compass, read a compass, use a map

and protractor, verify their pace count on terrain and road, use attack points, how to convert a grid azimuth to a magnetic azimuth and vice-versa, and familiarize themselves with a terrain model of the course.

Each regiment starts off by setting up a patrol base near the Land Navigation site. This allows cadets to become accustomed to the various wonders Washington State has to offer, such as ants, numerous types of shrubbery, and of course mosquitoes, before heading out on the course. Cadets receive six 20-minute classes on proper navigation techniques to help them complete the course. This is a chance for cadets to refresh their orienteering skills and hopefully learn some new ones.

Once cadets have received a pencil, map, strip of paper with their grid coordinates, and plastic bag, they're given fifteen minutes in which to plot and verify all their points on their map. The cadets first must complete is the Night Land Navigation course. Cadets have three hours and thirty minutes to find at least three out of five points.

While on the course, cadets must be wary of obstacles on the ground such as downed trees and ant hills – in the dark.

If a cadet fails to return any issued piece of equipment they will be rewarded with a negative spot report. This is a change from last year where cadets would automatically be failed for losing materials.

After completing the Night Land Navigation course cadets prepare for some much needed rest in their new woodland homes for the next day.

Day 2 of Land Navigation kicks off with a hearty breakfast before hitting the course. Cadets are quickly briefed on the Day Land Navigation course, emphasizing new boundaries. Before heading out on the course cadets must once again draw the same materials: pencil, map, strip of paper with grid coordinates, and plastic bag. Once the course begins cadets are given five hours to navigate their way around to find check points. In order to be considered a "go" for Day Land Navigation, cadets must find at least



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. John Landry

five out of eight points.

"Orienteering and Land Navigation is important because finding your way is essential in locating objectives and avoiding unnecessary dangers on the battlefield," said 2nd Lt. Joseph Bolcar from the Land Navigation committee.

A cadet from 8th Regiment uses a compass to identify an azimuth, or the angular direction from her location to that of a distant object, in planning her overland travel.

U.S. Army photo by Al Zdarsky



Individual Tactical Training

By 2nd Lt. Melinda Walden

Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Three to five seconds is all the time cadets here are given to move in the open. I'm up, they see me, I'm down. That's why combat movement techniques are taught at Individual Tactical Training on Days 13 and 14 of Warrior Forge.

Cadets have reinforced to them the techniques that were taught back at their college or university, with new tactics brought back from Iraq and imparted by Reserve and active-duty soldiers. The cadets learn to move tactically as individuals – and as a team – to negotiate obstacles in their path and destroy enemy targets.

The ultimate test is at the end when they move through the Audie Murphy Assault Course and apply everything they have learned.

The assault course tests them in a real-life situation with simulated gun fire and explosions. If the cadets forget their training, they are quickly reminded with a paintball hit in their lower body from near-by trainers. The course is timed, graded and counts towards a platoon ribbon.

ITT also teaches the cadets how important communication and teamwork are in the field environment.

"It's important for the team to trust each other and trust everyone's judgment in order to get safely through the assault course without getting killed," said Cadet Brain Kinsella Jr., 4th Regiment.

Just knowing movement techniques isn't enough. Being able to execute them with little reaction time is critical.

"One day we may have to employ these techniques in combat situations," said Cadet James Donovan, 4th Regiment, "and be prepared to be leaders who can think quickly under pressure."

Other classes taught at the ITT site include assembly area and patrol base activities, Enemy Prisoner of War search and seizure techniques, field operations orders, and other reports valuable in the field environment.



Individual Movement Techniques, used properly, allow Soldiers to get on target or complete a mission without compromising their own safety. Learning to move with stealth alone or in a group, and approaching obstacles or enemy cover, are core tasks.



Heart, hands linked to success for Golden Gloves champ



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Will Brown

Daniel Grogan, a University of Alabama — Birmingham cadet assigned to the 6th Regiment at Warrior Forge, puts up a good fight. He's Alabama's Golden Gloves Champion.

"Knowing that I had won, some of the guys wanted to talk trash, trying to pick a fight..."

By Janey Fassbender
Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Duty. Honor. Country. Cadet Daniel Grogan grew up knowing these words well. His father was a U.S. Army officer, and he had told his son war stories from his time in the service.

Grogan knew at a young age that he was going to join an ROTC program so he could, like his father, become an army officer.

His sophomore year in high school, he realized he wasn't in the shape he would need to be in to excel as a cadet, so he decided to start training.

"I needed to do whatever it took to make that happen," Grogan said. His initial thought was to go out for football, but his dad didn't want him to injure his knees, so he took up boxing instead.

He had fun learning new skills and fell in love with the sport. Not only did the training make him physically fit, it taught him how to interact with people from different age groups and backgrounds. He especially enjoyed the camaraderie, which he now finds similar to that in the military.

"Daniel had the talent to go far," said his trainer, David Godber, owner of Round-1 Boxing in Hoover, Al. "He had one of the best starts I ever saw. Very few people come out of the gate like he did."

Grogan had been training for about a year when Godber entered him into the Alabama Golden Glove State Championship.

Grogan fought in the super heavyweight novice class, weighing more than 210 pounds. Since he was in the highest weight class, Godber said his fighter had a good chance of getting matched up against someone much older and heavier.

"It takes heart and courage to go between the ropes and get in the ring to outfight a bigger opponent," Godber said. But Grogan went to the March 2001 tournament ready to give it his full effort.

"God had given me a blessing, and I would run with it while I could," Grogan explained.

He won both of his fights that weekend making him the state champion in his weight and experience class. For winning he received a trophy, but more importantly to him: "No black eyes."

The local newspaper picked up the story and by the time school started on Monday morning, Grogan had become a sports hero around school. He found that there was a downside to fame, especially the fame from boxing.

"Knowing that I had won, some of the guys wanted to talk trash, trying to pick a fight and see what I had."

Grogan's life became busier and he didn't pursue boxing during college. The boxing had accomplished his goal of getting into shape and helped Grogan to excel in the ROTC program at the University of Alabama — Birmingham. "He has channeled his unbridled energy into very productive leadership qualities," stated Lt. Col. Jennifer Scott Deputy Commander for the program. "Cadet Grogan has been selected to be this year's Ranger Challenge Team Captain because of his physical abilities and dynamic recruiting techniques."

Grogan's foray into the boxing world has given him motivation for both his military training and for life.

"Boxing, or any competitive sport like that, gives a mentality where you are not willing to give up. You are willing to go through one more round of pain and sweat just to accomplish the mission," Grogan said. "No matter what happens, you are going to get a beating. Whether it's boxing or in life, you are going to get hit. It's going to hurt and it sucks at times — but you know that you've been trained what to do, and you know how to accomplish the mission. You just put your heart into it and go."

"That's the biggest thing — to put your heart into it and go."



Warrior Forge safety office trio take 2nd Place in local triathlon

2nd Lt. Scott Smith

Warrior Forge Safety Office

Three members of Warrior Forge Safety stepped up to a challenge June 25, and finishing a respectable 2nd Place in the first race of the Fort Lewis Triple Threat Triathlon Series.

Bicycle racing veteran Lt. Col. Mike Shenk joined 2nd Lts. Scott Smith and Ken Schoonover and competed as Team Warrior Forge Safety in the race – splitting the biking, swimming and running legs.

The three officers focused their physical training for the triathlon goal upon arrival to Warrior Forge in late May. Smith swam thousands of meters up and down Kimbro Pool and even tested the water temperatures in the frigid American Lake as he prepared for the half-mile swim – the first leg of the race.

Shenk prepared for the 14-mile second leg by cycling more than 150 miles per week as he commuted by bike daily to North Fort Lewis from Dupont, and participated in local training rides with veteran Army Triathlon Team members.

Schoonover focused on his aerobic performance as he trained for the third and final leg of the race, the 3-mile run.

Shenk, the founder and president of Team Army-USAC, a 350-member cycling organization representing Army riders and racers from around the world, conjured up the idea of an “all Safety” triathlon team immediately upon his arrival to Warrior Forge.

“When I arrived to Fort Lewis to support Warrior Forge and noted that the first triathlon race would fit nicely into the Safety battle-rhythm, I immediately began targeted recruiting for a swimmer and runner. I always travel with a bike, so the middle leg was covered.

“Fortunately, Lt. Smith and Lt. Schoonover were assigned to the Safety Section, and they stepped up to the challenge and performed excellently. There is



U.S. Army photo by Jeremy O'Bryan

2nd Lt. Scott Smith, Lt. Col. Michael Shenk and 2nd Lt. Ken Schoonover, from the Warrior Forge Safety Office, tackle the first in a summer series of triathlons at Fort Lewis, finishing 2nd out of 15 team entries.

more to fitness than pushups, sit ups, and running, and these lieutenants can now add multi-sport activities to their training regimen.”

Smith started with the second wave of swimmers, yet incredibly, he caught up with the first wave of swimmers going into the first turn, who had started more than a minute earlier. He was past the pack going into the home stretch, and finished behind only a handful of elite category competitors who

departed with the first wave. Warrior Forge Safety looked to be in great shape when Smith tagged the assumed “secret weapon” on the bike.

Shenk sprinted to the course and caught the one other team cyclist in front of him, holding a 24 mph pace. Only four elite-level riders were to his front when the unspeakable happened – a rear flat. The secret weapon was quickly becoming the team’s Achilles heel, having to slow his pace to stay upright while riding on the flattened tire.

One-by-one, nearly a dozen individual and team riders consumed the slowing Shenk as he made his way back to the race transition area. It would be up to the Team’s anchor runner to make up the new deficit.

Schoonover took off like he was attempting the Warrior Forge APFT run record, catching some of the competition. Unable to discern individual runners from team competitors, Schoonover made it his mission to simply catch and pass everyone he could. Fortunately, for Warrior Forge Safety, he finished fast like he started, flying down the home stretch with a possible Top-3 podium finish again in sight.

The team finished the day as the 2nd Place military team of 15 team entries.

“Should have taken the spare tube; could have ridden faster; and, would have taken 1st,” Shenk said. Smith and Schoonover put the day’s efforts into perspective for the overly-competitive, aging Shenk.

“Not bad for an old aviator. At least we don’t have to submit an accident report on you.”

With Warrior Forge Safety departing Fort Lewis before Race 2 in the Triple Threat Triathlon Series on July 16, the team extends an open invitation to other Warrior Forge staff sections to carry on in their absence.

Active-duty cyclists can join Team Army-USAC at <http://www.teamarmy-usac.org>.

Branch Orientation gives cadets a glimpse of their futures

By 2nd Lt. John Landry

Warrior Forge Public Affairs

Now you must pick. Now is the time for you to make a choice. Do you go Infantry? Or Medical Service? The road less traveled?

Branch Orientation educates cadets about the various branches of the U.S. Army. Cadets are free to explore any of the branch briefings. They get to visit and discuss each branch with representatives from all 16 branches.

Choosing which Army branches best suit you is a challenge for most. There are a few cadets who have been screaming “Infantry!” since they came into this world, but for most, the decision is a road of uncertainty.

Branch Orientation at Warrior Forge is in all respects intended to be a relaxing day, although, FA, ADA, MP, AG, and all the other acronyms for branch

choices can make this day a little stressful.

Since cadets only have time to attend five briefings, they need to have some idea of which briefings to attend.

At the Forge’s first of two orientation days, cadets from 1st Regiment were easy to spot due to the excessive amount of camouflage still on their faces from their time in the field. Sixth Regiment cadets were cleaner, but approached this day with greater trepidation.

Cadets from all the regiments would huddle into a branches tent and wait patiently for the briefing to start while conversing with their peers on why they are attending a particular presentation.

Some say “I like to blow stuff up,” or “I want to fly,” while others just simply say “I don’t know.”

The truth is: it’s OK to not know. Helping cadets make up their minds is one of the reasons for having the briefing in the first place.



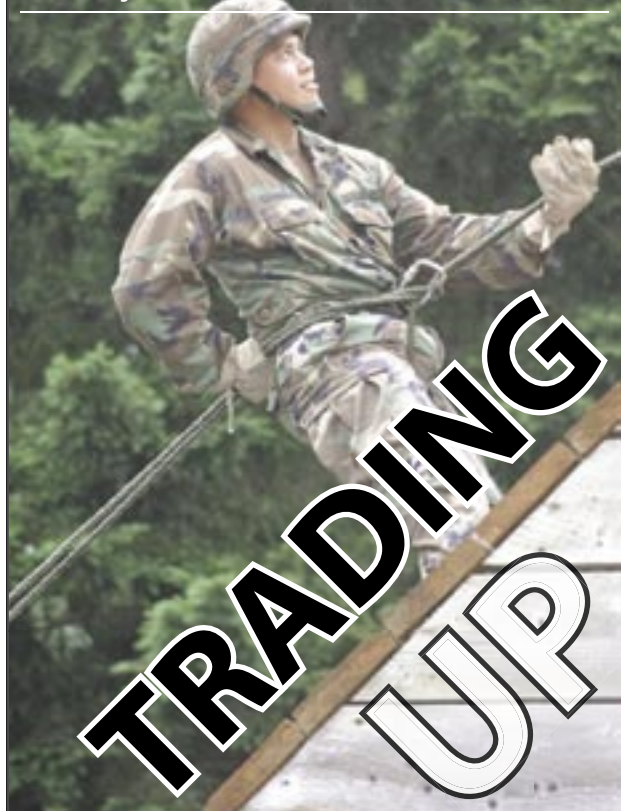


Green to Gold offers Soldiers leg up toward LT bars

Many enlisted Soldiers dream of being an officer. Not only does the military give its men and women opportunities to continue their education while on active duty, but they also have a program that lets enlisted Soldiers compete for the chance at a scholarship.

Green to Gold is a highly competitive incentive program which allows Soldiers to complete their

Stories by Janey Fassbender
Photo by 2nd Lt. Will Brown
Warrior Forge Public Affairs



Cadet Itsara Ounnarath, 5th Regiment, is in the Green-to-Gold Program, which lets Soldiers go away to college and return to active-duty as officers.

college education then return to their military career as officers. Three different Green to Gold programs allow Soldiers to apply for the one that best fits their needs.

In 2005, 100 soldiers were selected as winners for the most common type of incentive, the Active Duty Option Program. This program allows soldiers who already have an associates degree to be paid by the military to go to school full time. The Soldiers are assigned to the Active Student Detachment at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina but then assigned to duty at the school of their choice. They are paid a normal salary, at whatever rank they have achieved, for up to 24 months while they go back to school.

"The active duty program is a great way to go for those who have families," said Capt. William Johnston, Enrollment Officer for the ROTC program at Pacific Lutheran University. "It allows them to keep their medical benefits and continue to live in their post housing."

This program does not pay for the cadets actual college expenses. Cadet Itsara Ounnarath, 5th Regiment, who earned a bronze star in Iraq, went into the Active Duty Option Program.

"While I'm not able to use the normal Army Tuition Assistance, I am able to use my Montgomery G.I. Bill plus federal and state grants to pay for my college."

The Green to Gold Scholarship Program differs from the Option Program. The Scholarship Program is awarded on a two, three or four year basis. It provides up to \$20,000 per year for tuition and fees, a \$900 annual book allowance and a monthly stipend which ranges between \$250 and \$400. Some schools also have separate scholarships for ROTC which helps to pay for living in campus housing. Soldiers who are accepted for the Green to Gold may obtain

an honorable early discharge from active duty.

The final option is the Green to Gold Non-Scholarship Option Program. This program is only available to soldiers who have completed at least two years of college and will be able to complete the graduation requirements within two years. This is not a scholarship, but does still allow the Soldier to receive the monthly stipend while enrolled in the ROTC program. Soldiers who participate in this program are also discharged from the military but have an option of joining the Simultaneous Membership Program through either the Army Reserves or National Guard. By joining the SMP they are able to keep their time in service and earn a little extra money by participating in drill weekends.

Cadet Stacey Brown spent six years in the military and applied for the Green to Gold program as an E-6. She wanted to advance on a different level and also to be the first in her family to attend college. She finds that having been enlisted prior she will make a better officer.

"I can understand how the enlisted Soldiers think, and I can put that into my planning and training," Brown said. "There are a lot of Soldiers who are enlisted and going to college full-time; this is something that they should really look into."

Any soldier who has been in the military for at least two years and is in good standing with their unit may apply. This year's scholarship winners ranged from private first class to staff sergeant. Each of the programs has specific requirements ranging from age to college grade point average.

Soldiers interested in applying for one of the Green to Gold programs should contact the Professor of Military Science at the school they are interested in attending, or attend a brigade level Green to Gold briefing on their base.

For enlisted Guard, Reserve Soldiers, SMP is one route to commission

If you make your way around Warrior Forge this year, there is a good chance you'll make contact with a cadet who is enlisted in the Simultaneous Membership Program. This year roughly half of the cadets at Warrior Forge are SMP cadets.

SMP is a program that was developed to increase the number of officers in the Army Reserve. It is an incentive program which helps National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers earn their commission through participating in a college ROTC program. Eligible participants have the academic standing of a sophomore.

With the assistance of a Reserve recruiter, those who are interested are able to find a Reserve unit to sponsor them. Once applicants have their sponsorship letter and a letter of acceptance from an ROTC program, a Military Entrance Processing Station counselor advises them. After they are assigned to their unit as an officer candidate, Soldiers attend normal drill weekends.

While participating in this program, these Soldier cadets receive a monthly ROTC stipend in addition

to drill pay. They also receive pay for their time at Annual Training.

SMP cadets also have the option to use their time at Warrior Forge to count for their two week Annual Training requirement. Some cadets are under the misconception that if they count Warrior Forge as Annual Training they will receive both their Annual Training pay and their Warrior Forge pay. That is not the case. If a cadet wants to receive the pay for both Annual Training and Warrior Forge then he will have to attend both separately.

Cadet Denisse Ramos, 7th Regiment, plans to attend her Annual Training.

"While Warrior Forge can be used for my Annual Training, my unit is going to Italy, so I plan attending Annual Training after I leave here."

Soldiers have different reasons for choosing to enroll in SMP. Cadets in SMP also have a hands-on advantage over non-prior-service cadets. Cadet Samuel Menei, 7th Regiment, went into the SMP "to get ahead of the game by going to basic training."

Since cadets who attend basic training are not

required to attend the Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, it opens up a time frame that allows the cadet to attend a specialized school like Airborne School or Air Assault School. This gives a head start to cadets who already know what path they want their career to take.

Other cadets choose to go this route because it starts the clock for their time in service — time in service doesn't begin accruing for cadets outside the SMP until after they are commissioned. This early accrual is ideal for cadets who plan to one day retire from of the military.

In a study done by cadets at Pacific Lutheran University, it was proven that over the span of an active-duty career, a cadet who had spent two years in the SMP would make more money, in both salary and scholarship, than a cadet who had an ROTC scholarship only.

This extra salary also follows them into retirement as the cadet in SMP would be retiring with 22 years in service while the cadet who had a scholarship would only have had 20 years.